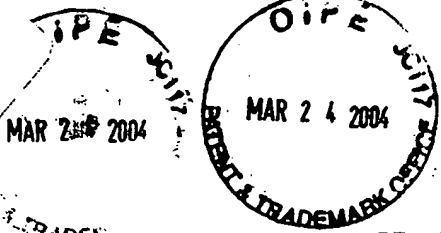


3731

Attorney's Docket No.: 00167-404001 / 02-31-0340



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : MARK HANS EMANUEL Art Unit : 3731
Serial No. : 09/486,977 Examiner : V. Bui
Filed : March 6, 2000 Confirmation No.: 6804
Title : SURGICAL ENDOSCOPIC CUTTING DEVICE AND METHOD FOR ITS USE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT IN REPLY TO ACTION OF DECEMBER 22, 2003

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

March 22, 2004
Date of Deposit

Denise A. Rose
Signature

Denise A. Rose
Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate